

REMARKS

Claims 1 to 12 were presented for examination; claims 1 to 4 and 9 to 12 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Chang and claims 5 to 8 were rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Chang in view of Pearce-Harvey. Additionally, the drawings were objected to.

In the light of these rejections, claims 1 to 8, 10, and 11 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 9 has been amended and new claims 13 to 18 have been added, to distinguish the claimed invention still more clearly from the cited art. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is solicited.

Drawings

Objection has been raised against the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a). It is believed that the drawing objection stems from claim 4 in the claims as submitted. In this amendment, claim 4 has been deleted. It is respectfully submitted that all features of the claims as currently amended are shown in the drawings.

Art-Based Rejections

As set forth in the currently amended and newly submitted claims, the present invention provides an occluding element which is rotatable about an axis, that axis being arranged to orbit the axis of the light beam. This combination of rotation of an occluding element, together with orbiting of the axis of rotation of the occluding element about the axis of the light beam provides for framing and beam shaping effects and a variety in such effects which is achievable not at all or only with difficulty in known arrangements.

In Chang, there is disclosed an arrangement in which an occluding element 16 is mounted for rotation. Specifically, the occluding element 16 is rotatably mounted in a plate 10, and plate 10 is mounted for rotation about the axis of a shaft 261. This arrangement, and the manner of operation described in Chang, falls outside the scope of the current claims. Particular attention needs to be paid to the axis about which the occluding element 16 can be rotated. This axis can, in the arrangement described by Chang, be caused to orbit the axis defined by the shaft 261. In this way, the four separate occluding elements 16 can be

individually bought in to register with the axis of the light beam. Moreover, once a particular occluding element 16 has been bought in to register with the axis of the light beam, that occluding element can be rotated on an axis which is now coincident with the axis of the light beam.

What the arrangement and methods disclosed in Chang failed to provide is for orbiting movement of the axis of rotation of the occluding element 16 about the axis of the light beam. To repeat, in Chang, the axis of rotation of the occluding element can be made to orbit the axis of the shaft 261; the function of this orbiting movement is simply to bring each occluding element (of the set of four occluding elements 16) successively in to register with the beam axis. According to the present invention, the axis of rotation of the beam occluding element can be caused to orbit the axis of light beam. This orbiting movement about the axis of the light beam enables a range of framing or beam shaping effects and movements to be achieved which could not be achieved at all or only achieved with difficulty in prior arrangements.

In view of the foregoing amendments and observations, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of under 35 USC 102 is respectfully requested. In view of the amendments now made, it is believed that the examiner's rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103 are moot.

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Respectfully submitted,

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